

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4 -8 and 10 presently stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Barrera (5,965,256) in view of newly cited Rogers Jr. (3,642,567).

Analysis

I. Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet comprising a composite film comprised by a composition containing a urethane polymer and a vinyl polymer as effective components, a first film comprising a material different from that of the composite film, the first film laminated on one side of the composite film, and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on the other side of the composite film.

The materials of the first film are made of at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyimides, polyether ether ketones, polyvinyl chloride resins, polyvinylidene chloride resins, polyamide resins, and polycarbonate resins.

The claimed pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet is used during processing of a semiconductor product. On the other hand, both Barrera and Rogers are related to protective film based coatings for surfaces exposed to adverse environments, including outdoor weather, solvents, dirt, grease, etc.

Barrera is directed to protection from adverse environments (see Column 1, lines 4-7).

Rogers is directed to a composite article protecting against exposure to weather and the like (see Column 1, lines 43-50).

The present invention, on the other hand, relates to a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet being used when semiconductor products are processed. According to the present invention, optimal numerical ranges of flexural modulus of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets for processing precision parts and other articles such as semiconductor products can be recognized (see on page 73, lines 8-12 of this specification). Namely, it is necessary that the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for processing semiconductor products has a modulus of 9 N/mm^2 or more and 250 N/mm^2 or less when an oblong piece of the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet with a width of 20 mm is bent at a radius of curvature of 3.0 mm.

Since Barrera and Rogers are directed to outdoor weather protection, these references are completely silent with respect to these important features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim is distinguishable from the combination of cited references.

II. Dependent Claims

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. The dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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